

# From *Bullettino della Società Botanica Italiana* to *Italian Botanist*, passing through *Informatore Botanico Italiano*. A 128 years-long story

Lorenzo Peruzzi<sup>1</sup>, Consolata Siniscalco<sup>2</sup>

**1** *Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Pisa, Via Derna 1, 56126 Pisa, Italy* **2** *Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita e Biologia dei Sistemi, Viale Mattioli 25, 10125 Torino, Italy*

Corresponding author: Lorenzo Peruzzi ([lorenzo.peruzzi@unipi.it](mailto:lorenzo.peruzzi@unipi.it))

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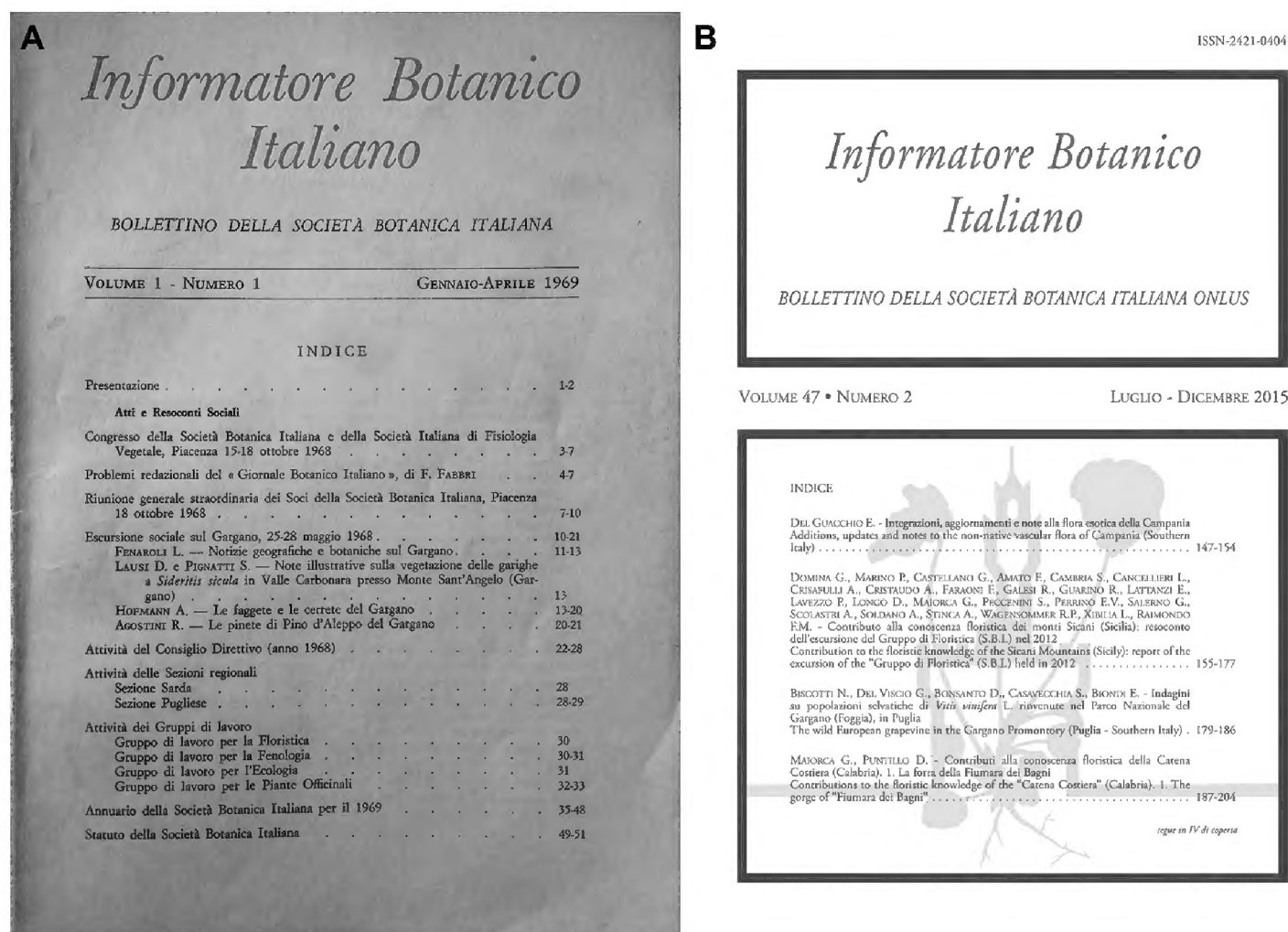
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In 1888, concomitant with the foundation of the Italian Botanical Society, a section called *Bullettino della Società Botanica Italiana* appeared in the last pages of each issue of volume 20 of the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano* (currently the international journal *Plant Biosystems*). Since the very beginning, this was the place where the formal proceedings of the Society and a summary of the scientific contents of the Society meetings were published. Since then, albeit without an autonomous numbering, the bulletin was regularly published several times a year. From 1894 and until 1926, along with the first volume of the new series of *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano*, the bulletin started to appear only once a year, at the end of the last issue. Between 1927 and 1961 its name was changed to *Rendiconti delle Sedute e Brevi Comunicazioni*, but its publication continued. Further details on these intricate and puzzling first decades of the bulletin can be found in Maugini (1988). When, in 1962, the journal changed its name again to *Giornale Botanico Italiano*, the bulletin also changed its name back to *Bollettino della Società Botanica Italiana*, and remained as such up to 1968. During the Congress of the Italian Botanical Society held in Piacenza in September 1968, the General Assembly voted for a full separation of the bulletin from *Giornale Botanico Italiano*, so that it became an independent publication named *Informatore Botanico Italiano* (Pignatti et al. 1969; Fig. 1A). The first issue was published in April 1969. For about three decades, the journal consisted of three issues per year and, later, of only two issues with occasional supplements.



**Figure 1.** Front covers of the first issue of the “Informatore Botanico Italiano”, published in 1969 (A) and of the last issue of the “Informatore Botanico Italiano”, published in 2015 (B).

The initial focus of this journal was the same as that of the earlier bulletins, i.e., to publish the administrative and scientific proceedings of the Society, the yearbook of the members, but also *ad hoc* submitted scientific notes (for a synthesis of the topics published in its first ten years, see Meletti 1981). The year 1988 marked the centenary of the Italian Botanical Society. For the occasion, a monumental 331-page contribution appeared in the journal (Pedrotti 1990), while, in 1998, an Italian translation of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Tokyo code) was published (Mazzola 1998). Over the years, scientific contributions began to prevail over proceedings, and several important scientific columns were introduced. These were *Numeri Cromosomici per la Flora Italiana*, reporting cytotaxonomic contributions on the Italian flora, in 1970 (for more information see Bedini et al. 2012); *Segnalazioni Floristiche Italiane*, hosting relevant new floristic records for Italy, in 1978 (for a synthesis and comments of the records published up to 1995, see Nepi 1997); *Notulae Cryptogamicae*, focused on algae, bryophytes, fungi and lichens, in 2010; *Schede per una Lista Rossa della Flora vascolare e crittogamica italiana*, concerning the IUCN protocol assessment of the Italian flora, in 2011. After publication of the checklist of the Italian vascular flora by Conti et al. (2005), the column *Segnalazioni Floristiche Italiane* became *Notulae alla checklist della flora vascolare italiana* and, after the publication of the inventory of the non-native flora of Italy by Celesti-Grapow et al. (2009), it hosted a sub-column concerning the record of alien plant species in

Italy, which eventually acquired the status of an independent column (*Notulae alla flora esotica d'Italia*) in 2015.

In recent years, an enormous number of floristic studies have been published, the major ones concerning large portions of the Italian territory, such as the Cilento (Moggi 2002), Lazio (Anzalone et al. 2010), Calabria (Bernardo et al. 2011), Emilia-Romagna (Alessandrini 2012), and the Province of Lucca (Pierini and Peruzzi 2014). Important taxonomic contributions have also appeared in the journal, such as those on *Festuca* L. and allied genera (Foggi et al. 2007, 2010), *Alchemilla* L. (Fröhner et al. 2012), and *Polygala* L. (Arrigoni 2014).

Since 1969, a total of 47 volumes and 117 issues of *Informatore Botanico Italiano* have been published (Fig. 1B). At the end of 2015, the Directive Council of the Italian Botanical Society decided to make some editorial changes. The administrative and scientific proceedings of the Society and other general information (meetings, exhibits, book reviews, excursions, etc.) will now appear in *Notiziario della Società Botanica Italiana*, an online newsletter in Italian. Meanwhile, in order to boost the scientific value and international visibility of *Informatore Botanico Italiano*, the choice has been to shift to an online, open access journal written in English and called *Italian Botanist*. In order to disseminate its contents more efficiently, it is published using the advanced technologies offered by the Pensoft platform. The journal is peer-reviewed, and hosts original research articles covering all fields of botany in its broader sense, from molecular to ecosystem levels, including mycology. The geographical coverage of *Italian Botanist* is specially focused on the Italian territory, but studies from other areas are also welcome.

Each issue will contain the following scientific columns:

*Chromosome numbers for the Italian flora*

*Global and Regional IUCN Red List Assessments*

*Notulae to the Italian flora of algae, bryophytes, fungi and lichens*

*Notulae to the Italian native vascular flora*

*Notulae to the Italian alien vascular flora*

Our hope is that this renewed version of the journal will serve the Italian – and foreign – botanical community more efficiently and provide readers worldwide with an easier access to knowledge concerning the Italian flora.

Lorenzo Peruzzi, Editor-in-Chief of *Italian Botanist*

Maria Consolata Siniscalco, President of the Italian Botanical Society

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